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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/465,147	12/16/1999	JAMES E. GRIMES	30-GF-1083	8528

7590 11/28/2003

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ST LOUIS, MO 63102

EXAMINER

PEIKARI, BEHZAD

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2186

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DATE MAILED: 11/28/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/465,147

Applicant(s)

GRIMES ET AL.

Examiner

B. James Peikari

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 October 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 25-34 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 and 24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 22 and 23 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Newly submitted claims 25-34 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: they are directed to a system where there are two modules each having its own CPU. Claims 1-24 recite only one of the two modules having a CPU. Originally presented claims have separate utility such as use in a uniprocessor environment.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 25-34 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03. Note MPEP § 818.02(a) for relevant RCE practice.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on October 8, 2003 has been entered.

Drawings

3. This application has been filed with informal drawings that are acceptable for examination purposes only. Formal drawings will be required when the application is allowed.

Claim Objections

4. Claims 22 and 23 are objected to because they recite "an option module" instead of "the option module". The claims are confusing as to whether the claims intend to recite either the option module of claim 10 or some second option module. Appropriate correction and explanation is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-21 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Sexton, U.S. 5,056,001.

Sexton teaches all of the features of the present claims with a PLC system (shown in Figure 1), including a "memory host module" (15) including a CPU (20) and memory (35 and 40), at least one option module (e.g., 75A) including a CPU (note

column 4, lines 4-9) and memory (102), a backplane (i.e., the circuitry and mechanical elements used to route data between data processing elements; note elements 25, 55 and 25A) interconnecting the memory host module and the option module, and further including the ability to store in the memory of the memory host module an operating program and data for the option module (note column 2, line 50-52, "(RAM) 40 is coupled to main bus 25 to provide memory space for CPU 20 to conduct PLC operations and store user programs).

Sexton further teaches the ability to transfer programs from the memory (40) of the host module to memory (102) of the option module (*note columns 5 and 6, especially the "send configuration file" command, which causes a set of programming instructions called the "configuration file" to be sent from the host module to the option module to configure it to operate in a given mode and behave a certain way).*

Sexton further teaches the ability to transfer programs from the memory (102) of the option module to memory (40) of the host module (*note columns 5 and 6, especially the "request configuration file" command, which causes the current set of local programming instructions called the "configuration file" to be sent from the option module to the host module, so that the host will have information regarding the current mode of operation of the option module).*

Sexton further teaches an external device interface (45) for transferring the operating program from an external device (60) to the option module through the host module via the backplane, and vice versa (*note the connections of Figure 1 and column 5, lines 10-55).*

As for the option module having its own external device interface different from the one contained on the host module, it actually has two one for input or output (*input, in the case of module 75A*) and the other interface (*104*) for communicating with the host module.

Response to Request for Reconsideration

7. The amendment filed on October 8, 2003 has been carefully considered, but is not deemed convincing for at least the following reasons.

Applicant's arguments regarding claim 1 are summed up on page 9 (and similar arguments are included for claim 10 on page 10) as follows:

"More specifically, Sexton does not describe or suggest retrieving a first portion of the operating program and data from the memory of the memory host module, wherein the first portion corresponds to the option module, retaining, by the memory host module, a remaining portion of the operating program and data, and transmitting the first portion of the operating program and data to the option module. Rather, Sexton describes transmitting from the PLC to the smart module a configuration file to instruct the smart module what initial configuration to assume".

However, applicant has failed to show or explain how the subject matter of the second sentence does not teach that of the first sentence. In fact, this characterization of Sexton actually supports the rejection as follows – *Sexton describes transmitting from the PLC (the memory host module) to the smart module (the option module) a configuration file (a first portion of the operating program) to instruct the smart module*

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what initial configuration to assume (evidence that the configuration file contains at least an operating program). Clearly, the unsent portion is retained.

Conclusion

8. This is an RCE of applicant's earlier Application No. 09/465,147. All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the earlier application and could have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action if they had been entered in the earlier application. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** even though it is a first action in this case. See MPEP § 706.07(b). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no, however, event will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James Peikari whose telephone number is (703) 305-

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3824. The examiner is generally available between Monday through Thursday, 11:00 am and 9:00 pm, EST, and on weekends.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Kim, can be reached at (703) 305-3821.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 746-7239 (Official communications)

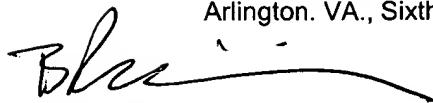
or:

(703) 746-7240 (for Informal or Draft communications)

or:

(703) 746-7238 (for After-Final communications)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).



B. James Peikari
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2186

November 23, 2003